

SEATTLE IN 1906

QUEER FEATURES OF LIFE AND BUSINESS IN THE METROPOLIS OF PUGET SOUND.

How Young Men Run the Cities Beyond the Rockies—No Place for the Rubber Backbone—The Growth of Seattle and its Ups and Downs—Rich Real Estate Owners—Some Western Water Powers—Washington Shingles—And the Puget Sound Lumber Industry.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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SEATTLE, Wash.—I came into Seattle late Saturday night, and, before going to my hotel, took a carriage drive up and down Second avenue. This is one of the biggest little cities of the United States. Its population is only 150,000, but it is doing a business equal to almost any of our towns of twice that size. There are more people here on the sidewalks after dark than you will see in Cleveland, Buffalo or Cincinnati, and the crowd is cosmopolitan, broad minded and western. Saturday night it seemed to me as though the whole town was out of doors. Second avenue was crowded, and the electric lights were so many that it made me think of a world's fair. I asked what was going on and was told with a deprecating air that the city was quieter than usual. As I went on through the streets it appeared that everything was wide open. It was only a short time until Sunday, but the sidewalks showed no signs of closing, and the 10-cent theaters and 25-cent operas were still running. Seattle has more cheap concerts than any town of its size in the Union, and one can have any amusement he wants and at almost any cost for the paying. I understand that the sidewalks are restricted by ordinance to the main business sections, and that this keeps the residence quarters free from such places and thereby adds greatly to the welfare of the people. At the same time there are plenty of churches—Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Episcopal and Methodist. Y. M. C. A. There are 27 Methodist churches and the Catholics are strong.

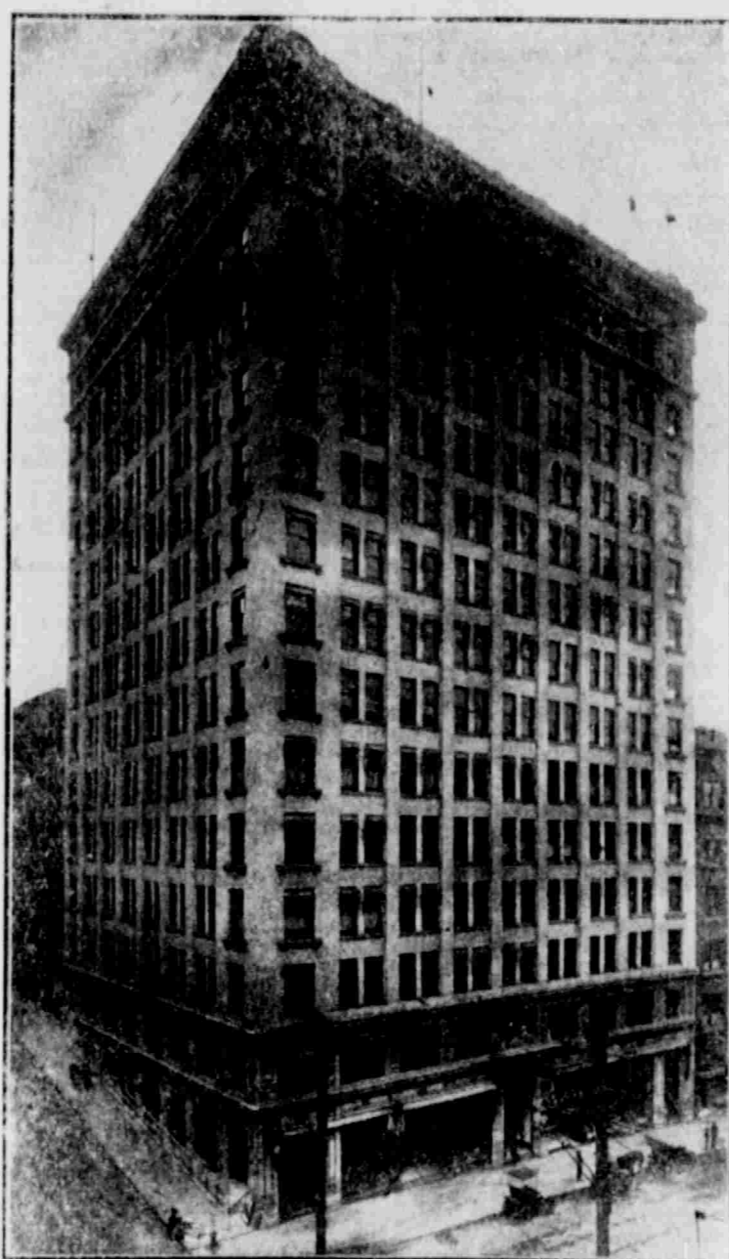
A TOWN OF YOUNG MEN.

I like the Seattle crowds. They are made up of all classes and conditions of men. There are miners from the Klondike who have made their pile and come down here to spend it; there are farmers from the wheat lands of the big Bend country; log rollers from the forests of the Cascade; fishermen from Puget Sound, and business men from every state and every part of the world. Seattle is a town of young men. There are few gray hairs or gray beards. The crowd is smooth shaven and the wear-and-tear of fortune making has painted wrinkles on some who would be considered boys in the east. The country here has not yet been swallowed up by the corporations, and there is a chance for the individual, and everyone is measured by what he can do and how he does it. Among the newcomers are the sons or many prominent men. They bring letters of introduction and are gladly welcomed. They are well treated at the start, but if they have no business ability,

push or energy, they soon fall by the wayside. This is an excellent place for any man, young or old, but he must be a man who can stand on his own feet. There is no room for the youth with the rubber backbone, and none for him who expects to ride to fame and fortune in an automobile, softened with tires filled with the gas of his father's reputation. The first will be doubled up and crushed by the crowd, and the machine of the latter will be punctured by the jacks of his betters before he has gone many blocks. At the same time the middle aged and the old must not look for respect to gray hairs. Everything here is on a plain business basis, and the only criterion is that of success. The seat is fast becoming a land run by the sons of their fathers. The big trusts are crowding the brains, muscle and young blood to the west, where there is still some chance for individual success. It is always the cream of a country which emigrates and Seattle is now getting a large part of the cream of the states east of the Rockies.

HOW SEATTLE GROWS.

The people realize that they have a big thing, and their faith is strong in that Seattle will be the biggest city on the Pacific slope. They claim greater advantages than Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and as Tacoma, Spokane and other Washington towns, they have long since given up in despair in attempting to compete with Seattle. Indeed the growth has been wonderful here since the discovery of gold in the Klondike. The town was begun a half century ago, and there were only 50,000 names in its city directory about six years ago. It has, as I have said, now a population of 150,000 and, with its suburbs at Ballard and elsewhere, perhaps 200,000 more. It is growing in business faster than in population. It has big stores, which carry extraordinary stocks for a town of its size. The rents are enormous and property is everywhere high. On Second avenue some of the lots are worth from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a front foot. I heard of one lot which changed hands about a year ago for about a hundred dollars, for which the owner has since been offered more than \$100,000. As to rents, they are on the steady ascent. Not long ago the Great Northern Railway rented a corner room on Second avenue at \$400 per month, paying a bonus of a month's rent to get the lease. The agent here was criticized by the officials at St. Paul for paying the bonus, whereupon he wrote them that he had an offer of \$13,000 for his contract, and that if the company would not satisfy him he would throw up the lease and look somewhere else. So far no change has been made. Speaking of the Great Northern, it has just completed a tunnel under Seattle to its new depot on the water front. The tunnel runs a mile under the chief business section, and it will land passengers right in the heart of the city at one of the finest stations



THE ALASKA BUILDING.

Seattle's New Sky Scraper Photographed For The "News" By Frank G. Carpenter.

of the northwest. This is located some distance from the wharves where Jim Hill's big steamers, which ply between Seattle and Asia, land, but passenger trains will carry steamers travelers right to the docks. Indeed, one can now get on the Great Northern boats at Buffalo, and without stepping off of property owned by him Jim Hill and his combination can travel all the way through the great lakes across our

continent and on to Hongkong or Manila without paying a cent to any one outside that great combination.

RICH MEN OF SEATTLE.

There are plenty of rich men in this city in addition to the hundreds who think themselves on the way to fortune. Some of the largest properties are those which have grown up by the increase in the value of the lands right

in the city. Seattle was founded away back in the fifties by Oregon parties, five men from that state building cabins here. They took out homesteads in the woods on the edge of the sound, and began to cut down the trees where the city now stands. Some of that property is still owned by their descendants and is worth millions. One of the men was named Yeater and his estate is valued, I am told, at over \$2,000,000. Two of the other first settlers were named Denny, and the Denny families are now said to have something like \$20,000,000 worth of real estate.

While I was in Seattle, about 12 years ago, Arthur Denny, one of the original founders, had his home in the center of a big lot right in the heart of Seattle. This lot is now covered with business buildings, but at that time it was devoted to his residence, and he allowed his blooded Jersey cow to feed upon the lawn. Upon being urged to sell the place for business purposes, he replied: "I can't do it. If I sell, where can I pasture my cow?"

That cow pasture of 12 years ago was worth \$300,000. What its value is today I do not pretend to say, but it runs high into the millions.

Henry Vedler, one of the builders of Seattle, established a saw mill here years ago, and in connection with it bought lands which were eventually worth millions. In addition to these there are here some mining kings from the Klondike, the timber kings of our northwest, men who have made money in grain exporting, some who have grown rich in real estate trading, and others who have made fortunes in merchandising of various kinds. Seattle is fast putting on the clothes of a big city. It recently built a skyscraper called the Alaska building, which would not be out of place in the heart of Chicago. It is a seven-story building, 315,000 cubic feet, and it has 11 stories, it cost \$1,000,000, and is said to pay a fair interest on the investment.

UPS AND DOWNS OF SEATTLE.

Seattle is a city of ups and downs. It has more hills than Rome, and its best houses stand on a number of long ridges which rise above Puget sound to the tops of the height of the Washington mountains. The hills give a diversity of city architecture, and also, I am told, an enormous lag development on the part of the citizens. I have not inquired as to the average size of a Seattle house, but I suspect that of any city of the Union. The Chicago girls are noted for their large feet, and the Seattle girls—well, the climate here gives them checks like roses and they will compare favorably in beauty and form with their sisters of any part of the country. I am told the men measure more around the calf and chest than any outside the Swiss mountains. The perpetual climbing develops the muscles and at the same time fills the lungs with the pure ozone from the Pacific.

CITY IMPROVEMENT.

Twenty years ago these hills were

covered with forests. They now have something like 20 miles of graded and improved streets, and altogether there are enough streets and avenues here to reach from New York across to Chicago if they were stretched out end to end. Seventy miles of improved pavements have been added within the last four years, and within that time the city has put down 25 miles of asphalt roadway and more than 130 miles of concrete sidewalks.

Seattle owns its own water system, and it has one of the best in the country. Its water comes from the Cedar river, which is fed by the Cascade mountains, and its purity is protected by the ownership of vast areas of land comprised within the watershed. The water comes about 10 miles from the head works to the city, and is carried more than 25 miles through wooden and steel pipes. The capacity at present is about 25 million gallons daily, which is little more than half the consumption. The water system is large enough to give a water supply for a city 20 times as great as Seattle is now. It could accommodate Chicago and leave plenty to spare. I understand that the water plant is operated at a profit notwithstanding the fact that the water is supplied at a low price, and the interest and operating expenses paid.

SOME WESTERN WATER POWER.

In connection with this water system Seattle has an enormous power plant, which is furnishing electrical energy for light and other purposes. This is fed by the falls of the Cedar river, near the head works of the water system, and it has just been completed at a cost of \$2,500,000. In addition to this there are private electrical plants which are furnishing light and power here. The Seattle-Tacoma Power company has large turbines at Sammamish Falls, 25 miles away, and the power is carried over wires to the city. The falls there are 268 feet high, and there is enough water to generate 50,000 horsepower. About two-thirds of this is now being used.

The Puget Sound Power company has a power plant on the Puyallup river, about 40 miles from Seattle, which was put in complete operation about two years ago. This plant can supply 25,000 horsepower, and the "juice" is carried in miles to Seattle. It operates the street railway systems of Seattle and Tacoma, and also a line between the two cities.

Indeed, the water powers of this whole country are being rapidly developed. Men are going about through the mountains prospecting for them as they formerly prospected for gold mines and coal mines, and the probability is that they will eventually make more out of the water than out of the gold. One of the sharpest examples of power utilization I have seen is that of a big lumber and planing mill in one of the Washington towns. This mill had a large amount of power, which it used during the day, but not at night. An enterprising fellow made a contract for the use of the power at night, and then sent in bids to the city to furnish his electric lights. His offer was ac-

cepted, and he is now making, so I am told, a small fortune in lighting the town with the mill power.

THE PUGET SOUND LUMBER INDUSTRY.

Seattle is doing a great deal of manufacturing. It has over 1,400 industrial establishments, making products of \$60,000,000 a year. A large number of these have been established since 1900 and they are all growing in size. There are now big rolling mills, cordage works, shoe building plants and a large number of saw mills. Other saw mills are scattered at different places along Puget sound, and there are in the state something like 300 which are making lumber and shingles. The lumber industry is more important than any other. It is now giving employment to more than 30,000 men, and it pays out wages annually amounting to \$20,000,000. The quantity of lumber used approximately is 2,000,000,000 feet of shingles, and a vast amount of finished lumber, as well as logs, are sent out by rail and steamer. More than 1,200,000 feet were shipped in 1904, the amount being equally divided by steamer and car. The state of Washington is now sending out by rail between 10,000 and 50,000 carloads of lumber and shingles every 12 months.

WASHINGTON SHINGLES.

Indeed, these Puget sound shingles are now used all over the country. The first carload was sent east in 1887. Since then the rails have been kept hot with them, and they are now furnishing one-third of all the shingled roofs of the United States. These shingles are of cedar; they are far superior to pine and will last for a generation or more. I have seen cedar logs clasped in the roots of great trees which have grown up over them; notwithstanding which the log was still undecayed.

The lumber and shingle mills of this part of the world have the most modern machinery. Men press the butts and water, steam and electricity do the rest. The logs, some single ones of which are large enough to load a car, are brought to the shores of Puget sound and thrown into the water. They are pushed along to the mills and from that time on are so twisted and turned by machinery that they come out in shingles, flooring, wash doors and other kinds of finished lumber, with the minimum amount of human work. I doubt whether there is an industry in the United States that is more economically managed than the lumber industry of the great northwest.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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WONDERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD

The collections of the steamer Albatross of the United States fish commission, include strong glass spheres that have been sealed and sunk 15,000 feet or more into the sea. Some are now filled with sea water forced through the pores of the glass, some are partially filled, and some were broken by the tremendous pressure of 6,500 pounds per square foot.

The saving of the vast amount of plant food now carried away by the rivers is a great problem for the future agricultural chemist. In one estimate the silt borne off by the Mississippi in one year is placed at 442,

500,000 tons, and analysis has shown Mr. B. H. Stone that in this quantity there must be \$120,625 tons of lime, 5,301,250 tons of potash, 1,109,375 tons of phosphoric acid, and 663,625 tons of nitrogen, besides soda and other materials of uncertain usefulness. The value of the fertilizing material removed in one year by this one river alone is estimated at about 1,000,000,000.

Many have wondered how milk can be reduced to powder without changing its properties. In the process patented in Germany, the milk is evaporated in a vacuum, with continual agitation, until it contains from 25 to 30

per cent of water, and then, with access of air, at a temperature below the melting point of the milk fat, until the water is reduced to 15 to 20 per cent. The product is then powdered, further drying at the temperature stated leaving not more than 4 per cent of water. This method, it is explained, yields a milk powder in which the fat is present as small globules, surrounded by dried "blue milk" which prevents the fat from decomposing.

The paradoxical scientific plaything of Prof. L. B. Wilberforce has been entertaining British physicists. A helical spring is fixed to an unyielding support, and at its lower end it carries a weight, with four screws whose nuts can be so adjusted that the spring vibrates up and down and twists on its vertical axis in approximately the

same period. When the adjustment is made the energy of one motion is transferred to the other in a very singular manner. If the spring be pulled down and released, it rapidly ascends and descends, at the same time beginning to oscillate like a balance wheel, the side turning increases as the up-and-down motion lessens, and then the latter ceases altogether. This is but momentary, when a reverse action takes place. That is, the rotation gradually slows down, and the vertical motion increases, the two motions alternating in this curious way for half an hour, and for more than two hours in one apparatus that has been tried.

The development of the steam turbine is one of the notable beginnings of twentieth century science. The Hon. C. A. Parsons estimates that six years

ago the total horsepower of such turbines was 60,000 on land and 25,000 on the sea, and that it is now more than 2,000,000 on land and 800,000 on the sea. The chief use is for large electric generating stations. The principal savings, as compared with reciprocating engines, is a reduction of 25 to 40 per cent in the total capital cost of steam, and from 10 to 20 per cent in the cost of fuel, with a further economy of 25 to 30 per cent in the engine room staff. A late type of 2,000 horsepower turbine has 20,000 to 25,000 blades, the surface speed of the several barrels being from 150 to 200 feet per second.

The oyster beds of the Bay of Naples are easy to see in the Straits of "Recovering their normal condition. The cinders from the eruption of Ve-

suvius have smothered the bivalves, forming a complete covering over them.

The much maligned white ant of South Africa is credited by a resident of Swaziland with doing more good than harm if care is taken of buildings. It has a wonderful fortifying effect on the soil, and makes and other crops grow twice as large near ant-hills as elsewhere.

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